

# the milliwatt



The award-winning monthly publication of  
The Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society  
P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282-5915

**March 2017**

## RadioShack

Bloomberg reports on rumours the owner of the **RadioShack** brand may file for bankruptcy in the near future. Such a move could deal another blow to the RadioShack brand, an almost-century-old source of electronics that struggled to compete with online merchants and big-box retailers. General Wireless Operations, the RadioShack successor was created in 2015 by a partnership between Sprint Corp and the defunct retailer's owners. It does business as RadioShack, operates outlets that share space with Sprint's retail locations, as well as franchising the name to other stores.

## ARLX014 King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej, HS1A (SK)

Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX), HS1A, died on October 13, after a long period of declining health. Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, while his physician father was at Harvard University, the king, whose name translated as "strength of the land, incomparable power," was 88.

According to noted DXer Fred Laun, K3ZO/HS0ZAR, the king "was never very active on the air, and, to my knowledge, the only QSOs he ever made were from a handheld on 2 meter FM." He said HS1A was often "pictured using a handheld." He also was pictured with a camera, as photography was one of his passions, and he was a jazz enthusiast, who played the saxophone. The Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST), the country's IARU member society, said on its website that the king was "presented the call sign HS1A by the Ministry of Communications at Chitrlada Palace" in 1989 in a ceremony witnessed by RAST officers. He was the ninth monarch of the Chakri Dynasty, having ascended to the throne in June of 1946, and was the world's longest-reigning monarch.

**Source:** W1AW Bulletin via the ARRL.



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The award-winning monthly  
publication of The BRATS.  
Items herein may be reprinted  
with appropriate credit.

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX, Editor

### Some Thoughts

Many of us are very concerned with the high cost of health care today. Our good friend, Martin, M0AAK, forwards us the British BRATS newsletter regularly. We found this interesting article which I reprint on Page 4 of this issue, I was happy to hear that the BRATS had a good rally (hamfest)

73, MayerW3GXX

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### The Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 5915 Baltimore, MD 21282

A non-profit organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the internal Revenue Code and a non-profit corporation in the State of Maryland

Member: ARRL, Foundation for Amateur Radio

Home Page: <http://www.bratsatv.org>

Email: [brats@bratsatv.org](mailto:brats@bratsatv.org)

Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7 PM

President.: Kevin Sherwood, KB3PLX

Vice Pres; Oryx Gazella, K0RYX

Secretary: Ted Bauer, WA3AER

Treasurer: Jim Sherwood, KB3SKN

Chairman of the Board:

Mayer D. Zimmerman, W3GXX

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### BRATS REPEATERS

Linked, WB3DZO

147.03+, 224.96-, 448.325-

Stand alone:

443.350+, 224.8-

Packet Nodes:

W3GXT=5 145.05

W3GXT-10 224.52

ATV repeaters W3WCO

inputs: 426.25, 1253.25

Outputs: 439.25, 911.25

### BRATS WEEKLY NETS

Monday 9 PM Traffic and Info

Tues. 11:45 Informal ATV

Wednes. 9 PM CATS ATV

Thurs 9 PM BRATS ATV

Sat 1 PM Weekly News Bul

Sun 8 PM BRATS ATV net

AS Needed: Skywarn

### BRATS Board of Directors

Through December, 2018

K2GZL, N3GXH

Through December, 2017

W3MSR, K9FXV

Listen to the weekly News

Bulletin on 147.03/R

Saturday at 1 PM

Join us for the weekly

Traffic and info Net on

Mondays at 9PM on 147.03/R

MINUTES of the  
20 February 2017 Monthly Meeting

KevinS, KB3PLX, chaired the meeting. This was our first effort at a teleconference meeting. 7 members dialed in; the teleconference venue worked well.

**/REPORTS**

- Minutes: Minutes from the January 2017 meeting accepted, approved.
- Treasurer: Treasurer's report was not available.
- Repeater/Equipment: Internet access for routine maintenance proving helpful.  
It was noted that the 443 NW machine has not been turned back on.  
OryxG, K0RYX, could use assistance from Python programmers familiar with socket communications to further the Asterisk replacement effort.
- Events: Reviewed, updated calendar  
MS Walk – Hunt Valley, Apr. 8  
Tour de Cure – Reisterstown, May 6 (CARA handing over to Aero, but will provide assistance if needed)  
Balloon Launch – May 13, site t.b.d.  
MS Bike Tour – Easton, June 17, 18  
Field Day – Steve, KA3ZMN, and Aero extend invitations, June 24, 25  
Susan G. Komen Ride – Annapolis, June 24  
JOTA – NS Savannah, Oct. 21, 22  
MS Walk – Cambridge, Oct. 27-29

**/OLD BUSINESS**

- Events Forms: Google Form for event sign ups via our Web site will be available by the March meeting.

**/NEW BUSINESS**

- March Meeting: Mar. 20, 7PM via teleconference; number to be announced. Apr. mtg in person; date, site t.b.d.
- BCPL Space: Learned that Randallstown Library renovation will include Maker Space. We will inquire about use of this space and if similar is available elsewhere in the system for our meetings.
- York Hamfest: Apr. 29

**Ted, WA3AER  
Secretary**

**ARISS Congratulates Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, as Hamvention's Amateur of the Year**  
Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) has congratulated ARISS International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, for being tapped as Hamvention® 2017 Amateur of the Year.

"Each year, Hamvention recognizes radio amateurs known for making major contributions to the art and science of amateur radio, and it's no surprise why Bauer was chosen," an ARISS statement said. Among other things, Hamvention recognized Bauer for his 1995 proposed experiment for the AMSAT Phase 3D satellite (AO-40) to measure the signal strength of the GPS satellite constellation. For years after, the aerospace industry cited this experiment, because the results helped engineers improve the GPS system, led to new applications for GPS, and changed navigation at High-Earth Orbit (HEO) and Geosynchronous Orbit (GEO) altitudes.

A radio amateur since 1974, Bauer has been the AMSAT-NA Vice President for Human Spaceflight for many years. At NASA's behest in 1996 and representing AMSAT, Bauer, with ARRL representative Rosalie White, K1STO, was instrumental in setting up the first meeting of worldwide volunteers that became ARISS.

## Why Our Health Care Costs Are So High!!!

Kevin had shingles. Those of us who spend much time in a doctor's office should appreciate this! Doesn't it seem more and more that physicians are running their practices like an assembly line? \\Here's what happened to Kevin:

Kevin walked into a doctor's office and the receptionist asked him what he had. Kevin said: 'Shingles.' So she wrote down his name, address, medical insurance number and told him to have a seat. Fifteen minutes later a nurse's aide came out and asked Kevin what he had... Kevin said, 'Shingles.' So she wrote down his height, weight, a complete medical history and told Kevin to wait in the examining room. A half hour later a nurse came in and asked Kevin what he had. Kevin said, 'Shingles..'. So the nurse gave Kevin a blood test, a blood pressure test, an electrocardiogram, and told Kevin to take off all his clothes and wait for the doctor. An hour later the doctor came in and found Kevin sitting patiently in the nude and asked Kevin what he had. Kevin said, 'Shingles.' The doctor asked, 'Where?'

Kevin said, 'Outside on the truck. Where do you want me to unload 'em??'

### **FREE EXTRA CLASS LICENSE CLASS**

12 weeks on Tuesdays from 6:30 TO 9:30 PM  
STARTING TUESDAY, MARCH 21  
National Electronics Museum  
1745 West Nursery Rd. Linthicum, MD  
info: [roland.anders@comcast.net](mailto:roland.anders@comcast.net), 410-796-4792  
Need to bring ARRL Extra Class License Manual ,  
11<sup>th</sup> edition ; available from ARRL, HRO and  
some Barnes and Noble stores.....

## ARRL DX BULLETIN

**DODECANESE, SV5.** Stathis, SV5DKL and Panos, SV2DSJ will be QRV as SX5R from Rhodes, IOTA EU-001, in the CQ World Wide 160-Meter SSB Contest. QSL via SV5DKL.  
**TURKEY, TA.** Look for TC7C to be QRV in the CQ World Wide 160-Meter SSB contest from grid locator KN90rx. QSL via operators' instructions.

**UKRAINE, UR.** Members of the Druzhkivka Club of Radioamateurs are QRV with special event callsign EN90IWA until the end of 2017 to celebrates the club's 90th anniversary. QSL via operators' instructions.

**BURKINA FASO, XT.** Elvira, IV3FSG is QRV as XT2SE from Ouagadougou until March 13. Activity is in her spare time on 80 to 10 meters using SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via IK3GES.

**GHANA, 9G.** Members of the Six G Team will be QRV as 9G5X from March 7 to 21. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY with three stations active. QSL via M0OXO.

**SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, E5.** Frank, DJ5NQ is QRV as E51ANQ from Rarotonga, IOTA OC-013, until March 24. Activity is on 20 meters using mostly CW. QSL to home call.

**ANTARCTICA.** Francois, F4HLT is QRV as FT3YL from the Dumont d'Urville Station Terre Adelie on Petrels Island, IOTA AN-017, until February 1, 2018. Activity is on 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB and various digital modes in his spare time from 0900 to 1100z and after his work duties. QSL via F6KPQ.

**SVALBARD, JW.** Tom, LA6VDA is QRV as JW6VDA from Longyearbyen on Spitsbergen Island, IOTA EU-026, until March 22. Activity is on various HF bands using SSB. QSL to home call.

**LITHUANIA, LY.** Special event station LY27W is QRV until March 31 to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the restored Independence of the State of Lithuania. QSL via LY5W. From March 11 to April 11, special event station LY27A will also be active. QSL via LY5A.

## THE WORLD OF DX

In the world of DX, Elvira IV3FSG is in Burkina Faso until March 13th operating as XT2SE on CW, SSB and Digital. Her QSL Manager is IK3GES. Listen for Lot DJ7ZG and Babs DL7AFS in Antigua where their call sign is V21ZG through the end of their station's operation on March 26th. They are operating on all HF bands on SSB and will be uploading logs to Logbook of The World. You can get QSLs through Club Log OQRS.

Renew: Regular \$15; retired/student/disabled \$10; Family \$20		
Name _____	Call _____	e-mail _____
MAIL TO: BRATS, P.O. Box 5915; Baltimore, MD 21282-5915		

**BARC VE EXAMS**  
**Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**905 Frederic Rd. Catonsville, MD**

**BARC Meetings**  
First Wednesday, 7 PM  
All meetings at Wegmans  
Hunt Valley, in the upstairs  
dining room.....

Registration starts at 2 PM

Exams at 2:30 PM

**NO ONE ADMITTED AFTER  
EXAMS BEGIN**

Pre-register by email:  
[info@veteam.org](mailto:info@veteam.org)

**NEXT EXAMS**  
Saturday, April 4  
and first Saturday  
of each month

**CARA**  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 PM  
Columbia Gateway Center  
Room 401; Columbia, MD

**LARC VE EXAMS**  
364 Main St. Laurel,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. at 9 AM;  
John, WB3GXW,  
301-572-5124

**MD Mobileers VE Exams at**  
**National Electronics Museum.**  
Linthicum  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 6 PM  
Mike, KA2JAI, 443-310-4902  
KA2JAI@arrl.net

**Cape Cod National Seashore to Host W1MGY Titanic Memorial Special Event**  
Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts has invited organizers of an Amateur Radio special event in April marking the 105th anniversary of the RMS *Titanic* disaster to set up at its **Salt Pond Visitor Center**. The Titanic/Marconi Memorial Radio Association of Cape Cod — **W1MGY** — is sponsoring the worldwide commemoration to honor the approximately 1,500 passengers and crew who died when the *Titanic* — thought to be unsinkable — struck an iceberg and sank on its maiden voyage from England to the US. W1MGY operators have permission to operate from the national park for 3 days and 2 nights. Sponsors point out that the 740 *Titanic* survivors were rescued by the *Carpathia* as a result of wireless messages sent from Marconi's **Wellfleet Station**, today preserved within Cape Cod National Seashore as its "Marconi Beach" site. Between April 13 and April 22, the national park will host commemorative events, including the special event, centering on the *Titanic* disaster and the evolution of wireless communication, culminating in the worldwide International Marconi Day. All *Titanic* events will be held at the Salt Pond Visitors Center in Eastham. Events are free and Open to the public.

## Milliwatt Swap Shop\

Ads are free...

Mail your ad to BRATS, Box 5915,  
Baltimore, MD 21282 , email:  
w3gxx@Verizon.net

FOR SALE: Hustler G7-144 \$125.  
HRO price \$199. N3BHE  
410-299-5931

SPECIAL: ICOM BC110 battery  
charger, 12vDC, 200 ma for ICOM  
T8A or equivalent, cost \$46.  
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order PC ONLINE  
<http://www.jadecomputers.us>

Antique radio repair, restoration  
Eric WA3TAD, audio visual service,  
Retro radio, 3401 Chestnut Ave.  
Ballo. 21211, 410-467-3620  
[wa3lad@comcast.net](mailto:wa3lad@comcast.net)

WANTED AC Gilbert erector sets:  
Old, new, large, small, need not be  
Complete. CASH PAID!  
Lewis, 410-296-4874.

WANTED: Manual for MFJ 1452,  
WB2LOO, [glm313@verizon.net](mailto:glm313@verizon.net)

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member Bob Shapiro, K2MYS  
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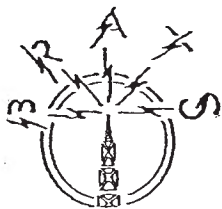
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Joe and Crew, JHS 22 ARC (WB2JKJ)

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**March, 2017**

## **MARS Refocuses Its Mission, Encrypts Data Nets:**

Today's Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) program has changed markedly from what it was just a few years ago. So says US Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, who contends that MARS must adapt in order to remain relevant and useful to its sponsor, the US Department of Defense (DOD).

"Probably the most significant changes were the Navy's decision to 'sunset' the Navy Marine Corps MARS program and our move to refocus Army and Air Force MARS on providing contingency HF Radio communications support to the DOD and the services," English said. "In order to focus our support on the Department of Defense, MARS leadership had to rethink, essentially from the ground up, what it means to be a MARS member." MARS relies on volunteers from within the Amateur Radio ranks. Among other things, recruits receive specialized training in military messaging formats and digital messaging protocols.

While the priority MARS mission is to provide contingency HF communication to support the DOD and the military, MARS also supports communication for combat commands providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, provides contingency communication for Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA), and provides "morale and welfare communications" in support of the DOD.

This year, MARS introduced an online encryption program that allows all digital radio traffic to be encrypted as it is being transmitted. MARS has also expanded its use of automatic link establishment (ALE), although members are not required to use it.

"Our bread and butter remains single-channel HF communication," English said. "The majority of our members who do use ALE are using the MARS ALE software program. Some of our members who support our national nets are moving to hardware ALE radios."

The MARS program supports quarterly contingency communication exercises supporting the DOD. These are based on "very bad day" scenarios, where traditional forms of communication are no longer available. "Through these exercises, the DOD -- via the MARS community -- reaches out to the Amateur Radio community to provide situational awareness information at the county/local level," English said.

That makes sense to MARS member Bill Sexton, N1IN, who was Army MARS public affairs officer from 2001 until 2014. "At least in theory, the blanketing omnipresence of hams across all 50 states offers a backup for blacked-out regions in the event of a catastrophic attack or natural disaster," Sexton allowed. "The challenge is mobilizing back-up operations in the total absence of internet, telephone, cell phone, or texting resources." (ARRL LETTER)